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THE TOWER
AND
CONVERSE FAMILIES

ANCESTORS OF
ROSA GEORGIANA (TOWER) READ

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED
By
THOMAS CARPENTER READ
1962

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PREFACE

The compiling of this genealogy was inspired by notes left by my father, Harry Humphrey Read. Considerable research on my part was necessary, including trips into Massachusetts and research in the New England Historical Society. Mr. Arthur G. Capen of Worthington. Mass., was a great help, and furnished me with a great deal of material. Thanks is herein tended him. The courtesies extended me by my cousin Howard Robinson, of Westfield, Mass., while I was in Westfield, are also acknowledged with thanks; his Grandmother was sister to my grandmother, both being a "Stebbins."

The compiling of this genealogy explained many of the teachings and traditions of the family handed down by Rosa Georgiana Tower. This work is dedicated to her memory.

THOMAS CARPENTER READ.

THE TOWER FAMILY

Ancestors of Rosa Georgiana (Tower) Read

FIRST GENERATION

1. JOHN TOWER,

Born, bpt. May 17, 1609, Parish of Hingham, County of Norfolk, England.

Died, Feb. 13, 1701-2, Hingham, Mass., age 92 yrs. 9 mos.

Married, Margaret Ibrook, Feb. 13, 1638-9 in Charlestown, Mass. She was born in England, the daughter of Richard Ibrook, and died May 15, 1700 at age 83, in Hingham, Mass.

Children; All born in Hingham, Mass.

John, bap. Dec. 13, 1639.
Jonathan, bap. Aug. 1, 1641, died unmarried.
Ibrook, bap. Feb. 7, 1643-4.
Jeremiah, bap. Mar. 9, 1645-6.
Elizabeth, bap. Oct. 9, 1648, married William Roberts.
Sarah, bap. July 16, 1650.
Hannah, bap. July 17, 1652, married David Whipple.
Benjamin, bap. Nov. 5, 1654.
Jemima, born April 25, 1660.
Samuel, born Jan. 26, 1661-2, married 1st Silence Damon. 2nd Deborah Howard.

John Tower was the son of Robert Tower and Dorothy Damon who were married August 31, 1607 in England. Robert Tower was buried in England May 1, 1634. Dorothy Damon Tower was buried in England November 10, 1629.

John Tower, one of the first settlers of Hingham, Mass., became a resident of Hingham, Mass., in 1637. He was made freeman March 13, 1638-9. In his disposition concerning the highway, Jan. 9, 1676-7, and recorded in the selectmen's first book of records, his age is given at "about 69 years." Upon his arrival in Hingham he had a grant of three acres of land for a house-lot on Bachelor (Main) St., nearly opposite what is now Water St. He also had other land grants at subsequent dates. In 1654, his name appears among others from Hingham upon the records of Lancaster, Mass. It is doubtful, however, whether he ever resided there. His home place, which has been held in the family name through successive generations, and is still recognized as the "Tower Estate," was on Main St., next south of the garrison house, near Tower's Bridge, So. Hingham. (in 1961 this house was still being occupied as a dwelling.) From time to time he purchased numerous pieces of land. Deeds were recorded in Hingham. In 1645 he was one of seven men "chosen out of the body of the town, as well non-freeman as freeman," to order the prudential

affairs of the town. In conveyances he was called "Planter", and "Farmer."

John Tower, seems to have had sufficient money to pay his passage and establish himself in America. He settled in Hingham, where members of his own parish in England had settled. He is buried in the "High Street Cemetery," Hingham, Mass., and there is a monument to his memory, inscribed as follows.

JOHN TOWER

1609 . 1701

IN MEMORY OF

JOHN TOWER

BORN IN HINGHAM NORFOLK CO. ENGLAND

MAY 14 1609

AND

MARGARET IBROOK

HIS WIFE

FOUNDERS OF THE

TOWER FAMILY

IN AMERICA

2. SAMUEL TOWER, (John)

Born, Jan. 26, 1661-2, Hingham, Mass.

Died, Mar.. 21, 1723-4, Hingham, Mass., age 62 yrs. 1 mo. 25 days.

Married, 1st. Silence Damon, Dec. 14, 1683 in Hingham, Robert Pike Asst. performing the ceremony. She was born in Scituate, Mass., in 1663, the daughter of John Damon and Martha Howland, and died in Hingham, Nov. 15, 1702 at age 39. yrs.

2nd. Deborah Howard, Jan. 20, 1703-4 in Hingham, Samuel Ellis performing the ceremony. She was born in Hingham Nov. 24, 1672 the daughter of Daniel Howard and Deborah Pitts, and died in Hingham Jan. 30, 1701-2 at age 69 yrs. 2 mos. 6 days.

Children of Samuel Tower and Silence Damon, all born in Hingham.

i. Silence, b. Aug. 27, 1684, m. William Sprague, Jr., April 23, 1707.

ii. Margaret, b. Mar. 18, 1686-7, m. Samuel Whiton, (pub. Mar. 11, 1711-12).

iii. Samuel, b. Dec. 15, 1689.

iv. Ruth, b. July 13, 1691, m. Samuel Garnet, Feb. 4, 1712-13.

v. Martha, b. July 20, 1693, m. Joseph Whiton, Dec. 10, 1713.

Children of Samuel Tower and Deborah Howard, all born in Hingham.

vi. Daniel, b. Nov. 22, 1704

vii. Sarah, b. 1706, d. Oct. 5, 1727, at age 22 yrs.

viii. Anna, b. 1708, m. Peter Tower, Feb. 1, 1727-8.

ix. Joshua, b. Feb. 10, 1709-10, m. Jerusha Sprague Aug. 30, 1731 dau. of James Sprague.

x. *Joseph,* b. Aug. 28, 1712, d. Feb. 21, 1783, m. Deborah Taylor of Scituate.

xi. Deborah, b. 1715, d. Mar. 9, 1809 in Hingham, unmarried.

Samuel Tower was a "Cooper." In 1704 he was Constable of Hingham, and from 1708 to 1716 was "Selectman." He resided in South Hingham. In his will of March 14, 1723-4, he mentioned and provided for his four sons and six daughters and gave to his grandchildren, Elijah, Abigail and Margaret Whiton. He stipulated that if his widow "Deborah" should marry again "She shall have £100 out of my estate."

3. JOSEPH TOWER, (Samuel, John)
Born, Aug. 28, 1712, Hingham, Mass..
Died, Feb. 21, 1783, Hingham, Mass., age 70 yrs. 5 mos. 24 days.
Married, Deborah Taylor of Scituate, Mass. (Int. Pub. Nov. 10, 1739)
She was born in Scituate in 1721 and died Feb. 12, 1806 in Hingham, at age 85 yrs.
Children, all born in Hingham..

i. Joseph, bap. Mar. 22, 1740, d. April 12, 1741.
ii. Desire, bap. Oct. 24, 1742, d. Dec. 15, 1815, age 73 yrs. m. David Farrow.
iii. *Joseph*, bap. July 28, 1745, d. April 20, 1823 in Worthington, Mass, m. Sarah Hersey, Hingham, Mass.
iv. Abner, bap. October 1749.
v. Rachel, bap. September 1756, died.
vi. Rachel, bap. August 1766. This is probably the "Raciel" that married "Amos Dunbar."

Joseph Tower was a "cooper," and resided on Main Street near Tower's Bridge. He served in the "Old French Wars," and was in Capt. Ward's Company. He is credited with 24 days travel, and six months and sixteen days' service, with wages earned of £-11-16s-7d and sands charged with a gun, not returned, value at £3.

4. JOSEPH TOWER, (Joseph, Samuel, John)
Born, bap. July 28, 1745, Hingham, Mass.
Died, April 20, 1823, age 77 yrs. 8 mos. 22 days, Worthington, Mass., and is buried in Worthington.
Married, Sarah Hersey, July 30, 1767 in Hingham, the Rev. E. Gay performing the ceremony. Sarah Hersey was born in Hingham Aug. 10, 1745, the daughter of Jonathan and Mary (May) Hersey. She died Sept. 22, 1839 in Worthington, age 94 yrs. 1 mo. 18 days.
Children,

i. Abner, b. Nov. 28, 1767, Hingham, Mass.
ii. Sarah,
iii. Pyam,
iv. Ezekiel, b. December 1781, d. Mar. 6, 1855 in Worthington, m. Elizabeth F. Josselyn.
v. Luther,
vi. Juliette, b. 1783, d. Feb. 10, 1803 at age 20, Worthington, m. Amos Remington.

Joseph Tower was a private in the Revolution, in Capt. Jonathan Loring's Company, called into service, April 19, 1775 and credited with 13 days time. In March 1776, he was a member of Capt. Pyam Cushing's Company, gurading the shores of Hingham. In 1777 he was with Lt. Joshua Tower in Rhode Island. Near the close of the war, he removed from Hingham, finding a new home in Worthington, Mass. (War record., Page 128, No. 94.) "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War," Vol. 15, Page 894. (Tower,. Joseph, Hingham, Private, Capt. Jonathan Loring's (Hingham) Co., of the train which marched probably on the alarm of April 19, 1775, service 19 days.)

5. EZEKIEL TOWER (Joseph, Joseph, Samuel, John.)

Born, December 1781

Died, Mar. 6, 1855, in Worthington, Mass., at age 73 yrs. 3 mos.

Married, Elizabeth F. Josselyn, daughter of Abraham and Eunice Josselyn. The Intentions were published, June 25, 1803. She was born in June 1783 and died October 14, 1876, age 84 yrs. 4 mos.

Children, all born in Worthington, Mass.

i. Elisha, died in the west.
ii. Joseph P. b. 1805.
iii. *Lyman J.* b. May 29, 1809, m. Lucy C. Converse, Mar. 21, 1832.
iv. William E. b. 1812.
v. Wealthy, b. 1813, d. Sept. 13, 1828, Worthington.
vi. Elizabeth, b. 1818.

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There is little known about Ezekiel Tower, doubtless, further research in and about Worthington will reveal his occupation and other information about him. He was probably a farmer and undoubtedly was born, raised and died in Worthington.

6. LYMAN JOSSELYN TOWER, (Ezekiel, Joseph, Joseph, Samuel, John.)

Born, May 29, 1809, Worthington, Mass.

Died, No record has been found of the date of death of Lyman Josselyn Tower, but the compiler has found a grave and stone in the North Cemetery in Worthington, marked L. J. Tower, Died April 14, 1885, age 72 yrs. Co. K. 46 Reg. Mass. Vol. Although there are four years difference in the ages from birth of Lyman Josselyn Tower, it is possible that this is his grave.

Married, Lucy C. Converse, daughter of Elisha Converse and Lucy Curtis Matthews, March 12, 1832, Worthington, Mass., the ceremony being performed by Rev. J. L. Pomeroy. She was born Nov. 12, 1806 and died in Worthington, May 21, 1877, age 70 yrs. 6 mos. 9 days. Through her ancestor Deacon Edward Converse, she was descended from a long line of royalty, including Henry III, 28th King of England, William The Conqueror, 21st King of England and a long line of Saxon, Scotch and French Kings. (Ref. "The Converse Family and Allied Families," by Charles Allen Converse, 1905. The "Ancestral Chart of Keziah Converse," by Worrall Dumont Prescott, 1956.)

Children, all born in Worthington, Mass.

i. Hersey E., b. Dec. 3, 1833.
ii. *Elisha C.*, b. Dec. 10, 1834, d. Aug. 7, 1886, m. Elzina Stebbins.
iii. Oscar F., b. Dec. 27, 1838.
iv. Welthea A., b. Jan. 17, 1841, m. Charles Mailey of Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 10, 1864.
v. Lorenzo J., b. April 17, 1843.
vi. Esther Josephas, b. Sept. 19, 1846.
vii. Lucy E., b. Dec. 26, 1850.

7. CAPTAIN ELISHA C. TOWER, (Lyman, Ezekiel, Joseph, Joseph, Samuel, John.)

Born, Dec. 10, 1834, Worthington, Mass.

Died, Aug. 7, 1886, Worthington, Mass., and is buried in the North Street Cemetery, Worthington.

Married, Elzina Stebbins, daughter of Randal Stebbins and Isabel Carpenter of Hinsdale, Mass., July 4, 1856. She was born April 23, 1836 in Chester, Mass., died, June 29, 1906 at age 70 yrs. 2 mos. 6 days, in Pittsfield, Mass., and is buried in the Maple Street Cemetery, Hinsdale, Mass. At her death she was residing at 22 Francis Avenue, Pittsfield.

Children,

i. Elisha Clifton, b. Aug. 30, 1857, Worthington, Mass. He married a girl from North Dakota, and adopted her only child. No issue by this marriage.

ii. Meda Isabel, b. May 6, 1859, Worthington, Mass., died May 31, 1895, age 36 yrs. 25 days, in Pittsfield and is buried in Maple Street Cemetery in Hinsdale. She was injured from a fall on the ice while skating and was bedridden for many years, during which time she became an accomplished artist. Some of her paintings are still in the possession of the family.

iii. Addie Imogene, b. Aug. 16, 1862, Worthington, Mass., d. Aug. 22, 1863.

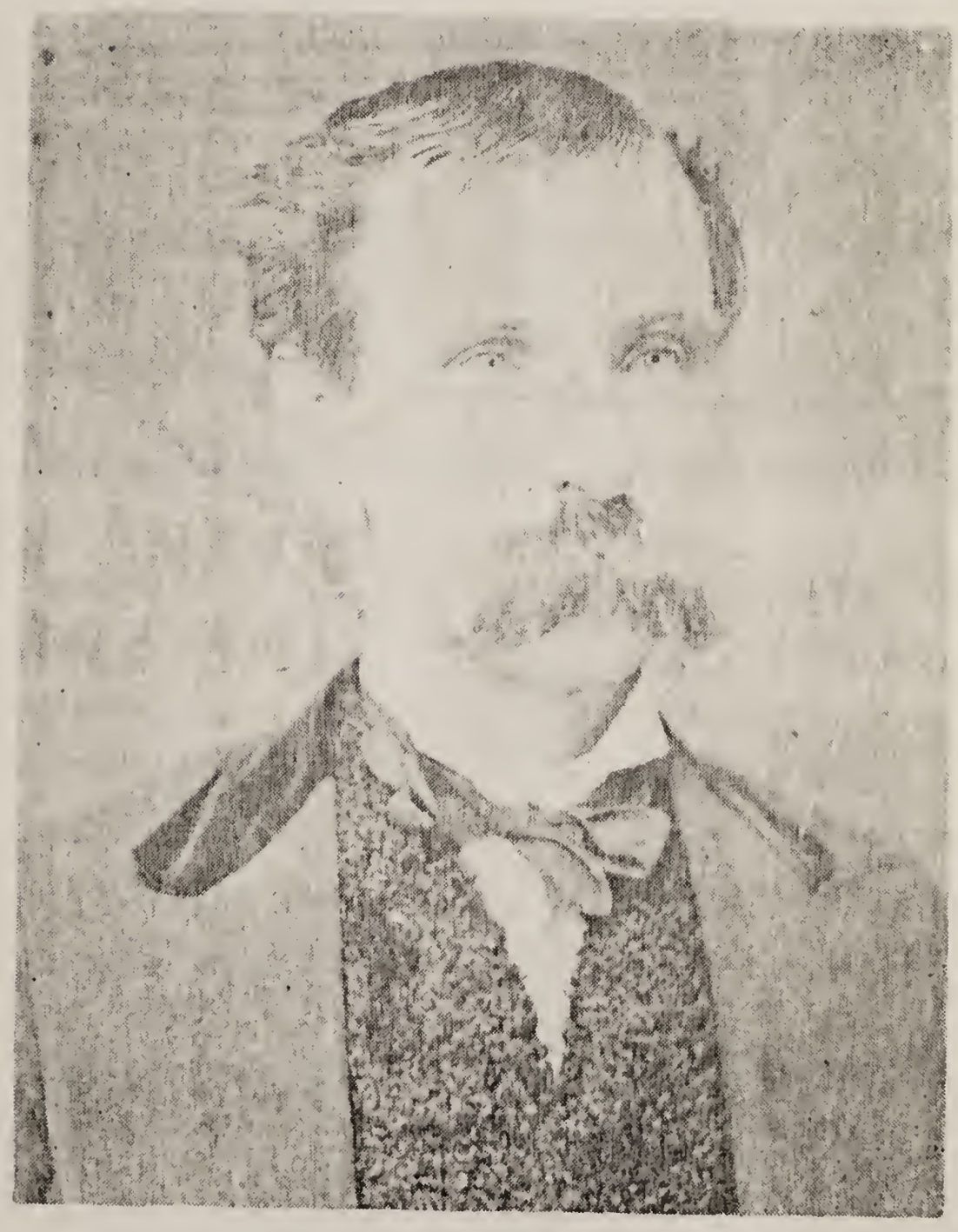
iv. Willard R., b. Sept. 16, 1864, Worthington, d. Sept. 16, 1865.

v. *Rosa Georgiana*, b. July 20, 1866, Worthington, d. Jan. 13, 1920 New York City., m. Harry H. Read Oct. 2, 1897.

vi. Eva Elzina, b. May 6, 1868, Hinsdale, Mass., d. Sept. 19, 1869.

vii. Maude Josephine, b. Sept. 7, 1873, Lawrence, Mass., d. Sept. 17, 1874, Pittsfield, Mass.

Elisha C. Tower, spoke publicly and helped organize two companies in the war and went out as the 1st. Lieutenant in the last company organized, (Company K. 46th. Massachusetts Infantry.) He was presented with a sword by the ladies of Worthington and was made Captain of the Militia after the war. He died on his farm in Worthington from fever contracted during his service in the war between the States. A stone is erected over his remains in the Worthington Cemetery.



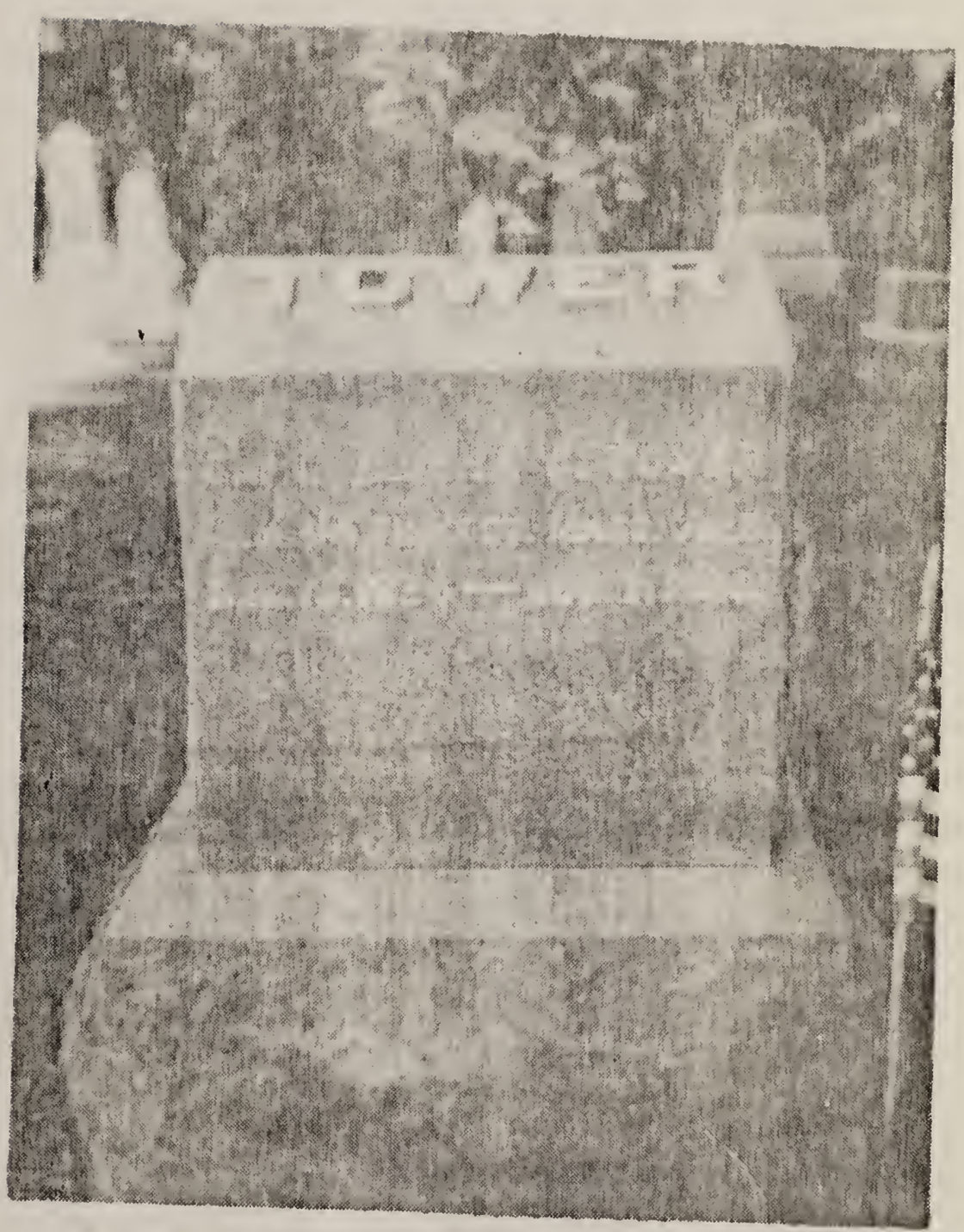
CAPTAIN ELISHA C. TOWER

THE GRAVE OF

JOHN TOWER

(High Street Cemetary)

HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS



The Grave of

CAPT. ELISHA C. TOWER

North Street Cemetary

WORTHINGTON, MASS.

ROSA GEORGIANA (Tower) READ

8. ROSA GEORGIANNA TOWER, (Elisha, Lyman, Ezekiel, Joseph, Joseph, Samuel, John.)

Born, July 20, 1866, Worthington, Mass.

Died, Jan. 13, 1920, New York City, and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Long Island, N. Y.

Married, Harry Humphrey Read, Oct. 2, 1897, Philadelphia, Pa. He was the son of Charles William Reed and Helen Augusta Farnham, of Bath, Me., Lowell and Lynn, Mass. Harry Humphrey Read was born Jan. 25, 1867 in Woburn, Mass., and died Sept. 5, 1933, Philadelphia, Pa.

Children,

i. Myles Weir Read, b. July 20, 1898, Norwood, N. J. Living in 1961 in Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.

ii. Thomas Carpenter Read, b. July 16, 1901, Philadelphia, Pa. Living in 1961 in Charleston, S. C.

iii. Winter Standish Read, b. November 12, 1902, New York City. Living in 1961 in West Hartford, Conn.

Rosa Georgiana Tower attended school in Worthington, Hinsdale and Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She had a beautiful contralto voice, sang in the Episcopal Church Choir and was a member of a light opera company in New England. After her marriage to Harry Humphrey Read, the family traveled extensively, living for a time in such places as, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D. C., Roanoke, Virginia., Rome, Georgia, Louisville, Ky. Corpus Cristi, Texas, Kansas City, Mo., Indianapolis, Ind., and then back East again.

(For the continuation of this line see the Read-Reed Genealogy "Direct Line" by Thomas C. Read, 1962.)

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The History of the Town of Hingham, Mass.

Town Clerks Records and Vital Records of Worthington, Mass.

Town Clerks Records and Vital Records of Pittsfield, Mass.

(Search of Graveyards at, Hinsdale, Worthington and Hingham, Mass.)

History of the Converse Family, by Charles Allen Converse, 1905.

THE CONVERSE FAMILY

Considerable research has been done on the Converse Family. Charles Allen Converse, compiled a very comprehensive genealogy on the family in 1905, in two volumes.

Worrall Dumont Prescott, compiled an "Ancestral Chart of Keziah Converse" in 1956, that is also in many of the genealogical and historical libraries. This chart gives the ancestry of Keziah Converse back to "Charles Martel," King of the Franks, who was born in 690 A. D. These genealogies are in many libraries in the country including all the large public libraries and many Historical Societies and State Libraries.

The Converse Family has had many notable persons in its line both in America and Europe. The American family is descended from Knights, Barons and Kings, of Scotland, Saxony, France and England, there being six Kings of England, from Edward the First, 29th. King of England, born in 1239, who reigned from 1274 to 1307, and who married Eleanor, the daughter of Ferdinand the Third, King of Castile and Leon, to William The Conqueror, 21st., King of England, who reigned from 1066 to 1087.

The Scotch line of Kings extends from "David the First" (The Saint), who died in 1153, after a reign of 29 years, to Kenneth the Second (MacAlpine), the First King of all Scotland.

The Saxon line of Kings, extends from "Edmund the Second" (Ironsides) 15th. King of England, who ruled from 1016-1017, to "Egbert," First King of all England, who ruled from 828 to 836.

The French line of Kings extends from "Louis the Fourth," King of France, who ruled from 936 to 954 and who married Princess Gerberga, daughter of Henry the First, Emperior of Germany, to "Charles Martel," King of the Franks. This line includes Louis the Second, Charles the Second and Charles the First, who were also Emperors of Rome.

OUTLINE OF

CONVERSE FAMILY IN AMERICA

DIRECT LINE

TO TOWER FAMILY

1. DEACON EDWARD CONVERSE, came to America in the fleet with Winthrop in the "Arabella" that arrived in Salem Massachusetts 12 June 1630. With him came his wife, Sarah, and children, Josiah, James and Mary. They settled in Charlestown, Mass., then moved to Woburn, Mass.
   Deacon Edward Converse, was born January 30, 1590, in Wakerly, County of Northampton, England, died in Woburn, Mass., August 10, 1663.
   Children, Josiah, James, Mary, 2/*Samuel (Sergeant).*

2. Sergeant SAMUEL CONVERSE (Deacon Edward)
   Baptized, March 12, 1637/8, Charlestown, Mass.
   Died, Feb. 20, 1669.
   Married, Judith Carter, June 8, 1660, dau. of Rev. Thomas and Mary (Parkhurst) Carter.
   Children, 3/*Samuel*, Abigail.

3. SAMUEL CONVERSE (Sergeant Samuel, Deacon Edward)
   Born, April 4, 1662, Woburn, Mass.
   Died, About 1732, Thompson Parish, Killingly, Conn.
   Married, Dorcas ..... , prior to 1694.
   Children, Samuel, 4/*Edward (Ensign)*, Thomas, Dorcas, Pain, Josiah.

4. ENSIGN EDWARD CONVERSE (Samuel, Sergeant Samuel, Deacon Edward)
   Born, Sept. 25, 1696, Woburn, Mass.
   Died, July 9, 1784.
   Married, Elizabeth Cooper, Aug. 6, 1717, dau. of John and Elizabeth Cooper.
   Children, James, 5/*Edward (Captain)*, Jonathan, Jacob, Asa, Jesse, Elizabeth, Zacharias, Elizabeth, Susanna.

5. CAPTAIN EDWARD CONVERSE (Ensign Edward, Samuel, Sergeant Samuel, Deacon Edward)
   Baptized, Nov. 8, 1720, Killingly, Conn.
   Died, Dec. 9, 1800, Windsor, Mass.
   Married, Mary Davis.
   Children, 6/*Samuel Davis*, Edward, Edward, Amasa, Mary Abigail.

6. SAMUEL DAVIS CONVERSE. (Capt. Edward, Ensign Edward, Samuel, Sarg. Samuel, Deacon Edward)
   Baptized, Feb. 17, 1742.
   Died, 1831, at his son's in Worthington, Mass.
   Married, Mehitable Harris.
   Children, Willard, Betsey, Walter, John, 7/*Elisha*, Polly.

7. ELISHA CONVERSE. (Samuel, Capt. Edward, Ensign Edward, Samuel, Sarg. Samuel, Deacon Edward)

Born, About 1774, Died, about 1852.

Married, Lucy. South Worthington Parish, by Rev. George Reed Moody, says her name was Lucy Matthews. The Converse Family Genealogy has her name as Lucy Curtis.

Children, Sally, Orren, 8/*Lucy,* Betsey, Samuel, Elisha, Horace,

8. LUCY CONVERSE. (Elisha, Samuel, Capt. Edward, Ensign Edward, Samuel, Sarg. Samuel, Deacon Edward)

Born, Nov. 12, 1806.

Died, May 21, 1877, Worthington, Mass., age 70 yrs. 6 mos. 9 days.

Married, Lyman Josselyn Tower, March 12, 1832, Worthington, Mass., married by Rev. J. L. Pomeroy.

Children, Hersey Tower, 9/*Elisha Tower,* Oscar Tower, Wealthy Tower, Lorenzo Tower, Esther Josephas Tower, Lucy Tower.

9. CAPTAIN ELISHA C. TOWER. (Lucy, Elisha, Samuel, Capt. Edward, Ensign Edward, Samuel, Sarg. Samuel, Deacon Edward)

Born, Dec. 10, 1834, Worthington, Mass.

Died, Aug. 7, 1886, Worthington, Mass.

Married, Elizina Stebbins, July 4, 1856.

Children, Elisha C., Meda Isabel, Addie Imogene, Willard R., 10/*Rosa Georgiana,* Eva Elzina, Maude Josephine.

10. ROSA GEORGIANA TOWER. (Elisha Tower, Lucy Converse, Elisha, Samuel, Capt. Edward, Ensign Edward, Samuel, Sarg. Samuel, Deacon Edward)

Born, July 20, 1866, Worthington, Mass.

Died. Jan. 13, 1920, New York City.

Married, Harry Humphrey Read, Oct. 2, 1897, Philadelphia, Pa.

Children, Myles Weir Read, Thomas Carpenter Read, Winter Standish Read.

(For the continuation of this line see the Read-Reed Genealogy, compiled by Thomas C. Read)

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Ancestral Chart of Keziah Converse, by Worrall Dumont Prescott, 1956.

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